

THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. MARIE'S, ISLINGTON, RESTORED.

THIS plate was prepared to accompany our second notice of Mr. Pugin's work, but the great length to which the lecture of the Rev. W. Drake extended, and its being upon the same section of art—Ecclesiastical Architecture—made us hesitate to so far press the subject upon our readers. The reason of our having selected the accompanying illustration is, to deal with a question which our love of impartiality prompts us to, and, in fact, to put the good which Mr. Pugin's exertions are calculated to bring about, upon a sound and worthy basis. We have prepared a similar block of the new Church, Islington, by Mr. Scoles, and we think that by shewing the two, we shall not be lending ourselves to an injustice, or the risk of committing one. We shall therefore continue the subject next week.



ANGLO-NORMAN ARCHITECTS.

THERE can be no doubt that in England the art of building derived its great stimulus and ascendancy from Norman skill. In the latter country it must have been regularly cultivated, and the gradual deviations from the Roman manner well established; while in Britain, from the departure of the Roman legions, and until the conquest, architecture may be said to have retrograded. No sooner, however, had the policy of the Conqueror began to be developed, than we find the allotment of the soil amongst his chieftains promptly followed by the ejection of the Saxon prelates from their sees and abbeys, and a general substitution of Norman clergy in their stead; of these several were remarkable for their skill in architecture, and still more so, considering the disadvantages under which they wrought, for the perseverance with which their buildings were carried on to completion.

Of this class of churchmen-architects, contemporary with the Conqueror himself, were Wulkelin, Bishop of Winchester, Gundulph, of Rochester, Rimegius of Lincoln, Osmund, of Sarum, and others of inferior dignity; and we may reasonably conclude that their known ability in the art was among the motives for selecting them. Builders they were, not only of churches, but of castles; domestic architecture, in the modern understanding of its appliances to personal comforts and conveniences, was unknown; the nomenclature of *grade*, was limited to lord and vassal, baron and serf; and now it was that strongholds of military chieftains, and religious edifices arose simultaneously through the land, under the hands of these proficients.

The Norman style comprehended extent, or rather, considering the scantiness of population, vastness of dimensions, but combined with great regularity of plan and structure, and was fully exemplified in the building of the Cathedrals of Canterbury, York, London, Winchester, Rochester, Lincoln, Worcester, Durham, Norwich, Chester, Hereford, and Sarum, with many other important religious structures, and this was accomplished within the strictly Anglo-Norman era, viz., A.D. 1066

to 1189, including the reigns of William I. and II., Henry I., Stephen, and Henry II.

It cannot be supposed that any examples at large exist of Norman architecture, but portions of some of our cathedrals exhibit the Norman impress in characters not to be mistaken, while in the ruins of many of the minor religious houses it is yet more apparent; time is fast destroying these memorials, but the zeal, and we might almost say, affection for early art, of such men as *Brillon*, and the labours and works of the Society of Antiquarians, have effectually preserved them from utter oblivion. It is from these sources, in the highest degree authentic, but, from the considerations of time and cost, inaccessible to the majority of our readers, that we purpose hereafter to draw many beautiful examples for their gratification and instruction; but to resume our immediate task.

The proceedings of the bishop-architects seem with respect to the erection of their churches to have been fully consistent with their duties; they commenced by building the choir, and eastern parts, and fitting it for divine service, leaving the nave, towers, and less essential parts to be more leisurely completed. Buildings such as these were required many years of labour, far exceeding in intensity that which modern science aids by its discoveries, and thus several of the original projectors were in the interval removed by death. In the prosecution of the several works by their immediate successors in the see, that is to say under their express superintendence and direction, we have convincing proof that architecture was studied as a necessary qualification for high station in the church. It is probable indeed, that the individuals cited were of the superior class of Freemasons well versed in the science of geometrical construction, that they were in communication with the universal fraternity of that name, and had facilities for assembling the craft in such numbers as might be requisite for carrying on their operations; for no other way can the prosecution at the same time of so many large structures, in a country which must have been comparatively destitute of experienced masons, be accounted for.

Neither was this skill in Architecture proper, only to those churchmen inducted by the Conqueror, but we shall find traces of it during several successive centuries. As an instance, we select from among their first successors, Roger, Bishop of Sarum, or Salisbury, who was consecrated to that see in 1107 (*temp. Henry Ist.*). This prelate affords an instance of talent and acquirement so remarkable, as to bear some parallel to that exhibited in after years by William of Wykeham; though with far less of the kindlier affections and munificent benevolence of the latter.

Roger, originally a priest of Caen, in Normandy, appears to have been domiciled in the family of the Conqueror, for we find him exercising the office of comptroller or governor of the household to Prince Henry, afterwards Henry 1st, whose confidant and counsellor he was in all affairs of church and state; having, as chancellor, charge of the kingdom during the frequent and protracted visits of that monarch to his Norman dominions. With Roger of Sarum architecture was a passion; it is recorded of him by William of Malmesbury, the chronicler of the time, that he not only dignified his cathedral with matchless buildings and ornaments, but that, in accordance with the policy of the age, he built the castles of Malmesbury, Devizes, Sherbourne, and Sarum. By Mr. Britton the building of the celebrated Abbey Church of Malmesbury is also attributed to him, and we think on sufficient grounds; the ruins still remain, and present fine examples of the Norman manner.

During the reign of Henry, the splendid career of the Bishop was unchecked. His nephews, Alexander and Nigellas, were Bishops of Lincoln and Ely, the latter holding at the same time the high office of King's treasurer; and it is singular that both these prelates were equally intent and active as builders. Alexander completed the Cathedral of Lincoln, commenced by his predecessor Remigius, and it is probable that the towers and portals of that edifice are his work. Nigellus, in addition to ecclesiastical examples at Ely, built also strong castles at Aldreth, Ely, and Newark.

At the death of his patron, Henry First, Roger and his relatives became embroiled in the civil feuds between Maud, or Matilda, the late king's daughter, and Stephen. To Maud, the allegiance of the bishop seems to have been due and pledged, but, cajolled by Stephen, he suffered the time to pass when he might have effectually served her cause, and met his reward from that unprincipled king in the deprivation both of wealth and liberty. For some time his nephews held the fortresses at Lincoln and Ely against Stephen, but were compelled to succumb, and pending these transactions the bishop died about the year 1140.

It may be necessary to notice that the Norman cathedrals of Sarum or Salisbury occupied a site at *Old Sarum*, and were within the line of circumvallation of a castle there; the whole of the erections were raised by an edict of Edward III.

The present cathedral of Salisbury, with the exception of the celebrated spire, since added, was commenced by Bishop Richard Poor, in May, 1220; the choir, opened for divine service at Michaelmas, 1225, and completed under Bishop Giles de Bridport in 1258. The estimated cost was forty thousand marks, a sum equalling nearly twenty seven thousand pounds.

FIRE AT THE COLLEGE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, PUTNEY.—On Sunday, shortly after six o'clock, a fire broke out at the College of Civil Engineers, Putney, in the students' reading-room, adjoining the chapel. A student sitting in the room gave the alarm. The lamp-lighter at the bridge seeing flames issuing from the building, also gave the alarm to the neighbourhood, and mounted expressmen were immediately despatched for the London engines; but happily, the night being very calm, the fire was got under with the parish engines, and with the strenuous exertions of the students and inhabitants, before the arrival of the London engines. The damage is happily not very great, being confined to the entire destruction of the reading-room and its contents, and some considerable injury to a class-room of the civil engineering department. The fire is supposed to have arisen from overheating the air-stoves of the chapel. No accident whatever occurred, and there will be no interruption to the business of the college. The building is insured in the Sun, and the furniture in the Hand-in-Hand.